

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tape cartridge comprising:

a tape reel which is rotatably housed;

a tape-shaped recording medium wound around the tape reel;

a reel teeth portion disposed on the tape reel; and

a brake-locking member having a brake teeth portion disposed coaxially and selectively mated with the reel teeth portion wherein when the reel teeth portion and the brake teeth portion are mated a rotation of the tape reel is prevented and the tape cartridge is not used, and rotation of the tape reel is possible when the reel teeth portion and the brake teeth portion are not mated and the tape cartridge is used;

wherein the reel teeth portion and the brake teeth portion respectively have a plurality of teeth projected from a base portion,

each of said teeth comprising:

a tip part;

a taper portion inclined toward at least one direction from the tip part of the teeth to at least one terminal, and

vertical portions extending in a substantially vertical manner from the terminal of the taper portion to the base portion, and

at least one portion of each of said teeth is constituted so that the vertical portion of each of the teeth of the reel teeth portion ~~is opposite to~~ contacts

the vertical portion of each of the teeth of the brake teeth portion at both sides of the vertical portion when the reel teeth portion and the brake teeth portion are mated.

2. (Currently Amended) A tape cartridge comprising:

a tape reel around which a tape-shaped recording medium is wound, which is rotatably housed, and which has a reel teeth portion; and

a brake-locking member having a brake teeth portion coaxially disposed with and capable of being mated with the reel teeth and releasing the mating state so that rotation of the tape reel is prevented when the tape cartridge is not used, and is possible when the tape cartridge is used, respectively;

wherein the reel teeth portion and the brake teeth portion respectively have a plurality of teeth projected from a base portion,

each of said teeth having a taper portion which is inclined toward at least one direction from a tip part of the teeth, and vertical portions extending in a substantially vertical manner from an end terminal ~~of the tip part~~ of the taper portion to the base portion, and

at least one portion of each of said teeth is constituted so that the vertical portion ~~is opposite to~~ contacts the vertical portion at both sides of the vertical portion ~~at an opposite tooth~~ upon the mating.

3. (Withdrawn) The tape cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein the tip part of each of the teeth comprises one of an apex and a flat portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The tape cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein the teeth of the reel teeth portion and the brake teeth portion are circularly arranged.

9. (Withdrawn) The tape cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein the tip part of each of the teeth is comprises one of an apex and a flat portion.

10. (Withdrawn) The tape cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein the tip part of one of the reel teeth and the break teeth contacts a bottom surface of the base portion of an opposite tooth of the tip part.

11. (Withdrawn) The tape cartridge according to Claim 10, wherein a height H (a distance from the base portion to the end terminal of the taper portion) of the vertical portion is satisfied with the following equation, provided that a height of the of each of said teeth from said base portion to said tip part is defined by H1:

$$0.6 \times H1 \leq H \leq 0.95 \times H1.$$

12. (Previously Presented) The tape cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein upon the mating, the tip part is not contacted with a bottom surface of the base portion at the opposite tooth while the vertical portion is contacted with the vertical portion at the opposite tooth.

13. (Previously Presented) The tape cartridge according to Claim 12, wherein a contact height ΔH at a mutually contacting portion between said vertical portions is satisfied with following equation, provided that a height from said base portion to the tip part is defined by $H1$:

$$0.2 \times H1 \leq \Delta H \leq 0.9 \times H1.$$

14. (Previously Presented) The tape cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein the teeth of the reel teeth portion and the brake teeth portion are circularly arranged.